

CAREER DREAMS AND GOALS

• It's Never Too Late to Discover



When I left my “corporate world” job two years ago, I immediately engaged in a job campaign to find my way back into another senior level position within the corporate machine. I was almost there, when tragic events overtook control of my personal life, causing me to re-evaluate the direction my life was taking – including my career. Was I doing what I wanted to do? Or, was I doing what others expected me to do? I had always made the most of my career by seeking out opportunities to fulfill my needs, but what about my dreams? I was successful and quite happy in my career, but I also could not ignore the “signs along the way” that indicated that I was now at a cross-roads, a place where I knew it was time to choose a new path and begin my journey.

Today, my journey continues to provide me with opportunities to meet wonderful people from all walks of life. They are at varying points in their careers, ranging from first-job-out-of-college to a-few-years-away-from-retirement. Although they cross many industries and professions, these people seem to have one thing in common – most of them are unhappy in their current job. Many are bored, frustrated or just plain exhausted. Some are confined by a comfortable, yet predictable routine. Although some maintain a vision for a brighter future, very few are happy. Some may argue that this is the reality of the situation. To that, I argue “not” and suggest that it may be time to alter your reality.

Wondering where to start? Begin at your core and become your own career activist. Engage yourself in deep soul searching via career coaching, meditation, mentoring, or educational exploration to an-

swer the question, “what is my career dream?” What change(s) in your current career would make it that dream job you’ve always wanted?

Dr. Maya Angelou once said: “Making a living is not the same as making a life.” I find that to be very true. I also believe that we are in control of our own destiny; we can change things within our sphere of influence. So, make a resolution to expand your sphere of influence and make extraordinary things happen for yourself!

It is unrealistic to think that we can love our work all the time. Happiness comes from striking that balance between our wants and our needs. Resolve to do the right things to bring balance into your life. Making changes or managing a career transition can be a difficult, yet valuable challenge. Do whatever it takes to put the passion back into your work life and see what “making a life” can mean for you and for those around you.

Life is hard enough – and it’s not always fair. Some people find it “easier” to live vicariously through the lives of others, be it their spouse, their children or their friends. This year, resolve to live your life for YOU – with passion, balance and honesty. By all means, be accountable and responsible for every decision and choice you make. Remember, no one is more in control of your own destiny than you!

Happy New Year! 🍀

— Lorraine Rinker

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